

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-10 BIB-01 DODE-00 ERDE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7743

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 07239

GENEVA FOR USCSCE DEL

FOR EUR/RPM - FROWICK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: CSCE

1. ELYSEE PRESS OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS OF GISCARD'S RESPONSE TO BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE ON CSCE WERE BASED ON ORAL BRIEFING BY ELYSEE PRESS SPOKESMAN GOUYOU-BEAUCHAMPS TO JOURNALISTS MARCH 18. PERTINENT PORTIONS OF AFP ACCOUNT FOLLOW:

2. AFP MARCH 18 ARTICLE ON CSCE.QUOTE VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS RECEIVED FROM LEONID BREZHNEV, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, A MESSAGE CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND HAS ALREADY SENT A REPLY TO HIM.

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3. THE ELYSEE SPOKESMAN, GOUYOU-BEAUCHAMPS, WHO MADE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT DURING HIS DAILY BRIEFING, STATED THAT, IN HIS REPLY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT THE "SUMMIT", WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO CONSUMMATE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, CAN IN FACT TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR AND THAT IN THE MEANTIME THE CONVERSATIONS CAN PROCEED AND CAN LEAD "TO PROGRESS."

4. GOUYOU-BEAUCHAMPS EMPHASIZED THAT THE POSITION EXPRESSED BY GISCARD IN HIS REPLY TO BREZHNEV CORRESPONDED TO THE POSITION WHICH FRANCE TOOK AT RAMBOUILLET LAST DECEMBER DURING A MEETING BETWEEN THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AND THE SOVIET LEADER. AT THAT TIME, FRANCE DECLARED ITSELF IN FAVOR OF A "SUMMIT" WHICH WOULD CONCLUDE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT HAD ASKED (DEMANDE) THAT PROGRESS TAKE PLACE IN THE CONVERSATIONS GOING ON IN GENEVA.

5. THE ELYSEE SPOKESMAN, GOUYOU-BEAUCHAMPS, PROVIDED NO INDICATIONS ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENT BY BREZHNEV. IN PARTICULAR, HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THE SOVIET LEADER REFERRED IN HIS TEXT TO THE POSITION TAKEN LAST MARCH 11 IN DUBLIN BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON THE PROBLEM.

6. IN THE DECLARATION ON CSCE, THE NINE ADMITTED THAT "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" HAD ALREADY BEEN NOTED, BUT ALSO "THAT IMPORTANT POINTS STILL REMAINED TO BE SETTLED." THEY AFFIRMED THEIR WILL TO INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS "IN ORDER TO SEEK IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT POSITIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS NOW BEING DISCUSSED OR IN SUSPENSE." THEY EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT ALL THE PARTICIPATING STATES MAKE "ALL THE NECESSARY EFFORTS TO OBTAIN BALANCED AND SATISFYING RESULTS ON THE TOTALITY OF THE SUBJECTS ON THE AGENDA."

7. "THIS", THEY SAID, "WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE NEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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FUTURE AND AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL."UNQUOTE

8. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN LATEST FRENCH PRESS ACCOUNTS OF CSCE ASPECTS OF PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S MOSCOW VISIT:

9. EXCERPT FROM MARCH 21 FIGARO ARTICLE ON CHIRAC'S MOSCOW VISIT. QUOTE THERE HAS BEEN NOTABLE PROGRESS,

ESPECIALLY CONCERNING "BASKET 3" ON THE FREE CIRCULATION
OF MEN AND IDEAS. THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER DECLARED
HIMSELF VERY SATISFIED WITH A DECLARATION OF INTENTION
ON THIS SUBJECT BY ALEXIS KOSYGIN WHICH HAS EVERY CHANCE
OF UNBLOCKING THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY IN GENEVA.
"IF SOME PROBLEMS REMAIN THEY ARE MINOR, WE HAVE MADE

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IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE," JACQUES CHIRAC EXPLAINED.
FOR THE FRENCH, THE FIRST HALF OF JULY SEEMS "VERY
PROBABLE." UNQUOTE

10. EXCERPT FROM MARCH 22 LE MONDE ARTICLE ON CHIRAC'S
MOSCOW VISIT.QUOTE BY DECLARING IN A SOMEWHAT SIBYLLINE
FASHION: "I THINK THAT WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO
ARRIVE AT A GOOD SETTLEMENT OF THIS AFFAIR IN THE NEAR
FUTURE," JACQUES CHIRAC WISHED TO INDICATE THAT RECENT
MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND SOVIET

DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA HAD BEEN DISPOSED OF. THIS
DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS HAVE
BEEN COMPLETELY SETTLED, IN PARTICULAR THOSE CONCERNING
THE "THIRD BASKET", THAT IS THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS
AND PEOPLE. THAT IS WHY CHIRAC IS SAID TO HAVE
EXPLAINED THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO GROMYKO THAT WITHOUT
REJECTING THE DATE OF JUNE 30 PROPOSED BY BREZHNEV
FOR A PAN-EUROPEAN "SUMMIT" MEETING IN HELSINKI, FRANCE
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FEELS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE TO EXCLUDE A
POSTPONEMENT OF THIS MEETING FOR A FEW DAYS, OR EVEN FOR
A FEW WEEKS. THE SOVIET WOULD NATURALLY HAVE PREFERRED
TO OBTAIN A FORMAL COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF PARIS SINCE,
IN THEIR OPINION, AS KOSYGIN RECALLED THURSDAY, "IT IS
NOW POSSIBLE TO SET A LIMIT FOR THE COMPLETION OF
THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE." BUT FOR FRANCE, NEW
PROGRESS MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE SETTING A PRECISE
DATE FOR THE MEETING OF THE THIRTY-FIVE HEADS OF STATE
OR GOVERNMENT CONCERNED. UNQUOTE
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